

years Tyler has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tyler Don Guess for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### COMMENDING THE LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

##### HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize and commend the outstanding contributions of the Leadership Training Institute of America toward the development of the young leaders of America.

The Leadership Institute of America is an educational organization providing training and opportunity in leadership development and cultural dynamics. This organization's mission is to identify, inspire, and instruct students for leadership in society by equipping them with skills to allow them to defend their beliefs, including and understanding of why traditional values are vital to a free and secure society. It is these values that have, and continue, to make America great.

LTIA students receive exposure to the major world views, issues, and philosophies of today. They are encouraged to pursue careers in influential sectors of our society by applying the leadership, critical thinking, scientific, and historic training they receive at LTIA, which is grounded in the Biblical traditions of America's forefathers.

LTIA students represent future leaders in government, education, media, and business. They will be the backbone of our Nation and vital in sustaining its position as a world leader.

With great pride, I salute the Leadership Training Institute of America for its unrelenting dedication and commitment in training and equipping young leaders for the challenges they will face tomorrow in our dynamic and ever changing world.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 25, 2007, I was detained in my district due to a canceled airline flight and was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor for H. Res. 189 (Roll no. 549) and H.R. 2546 (Roll no. 550). Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of both measures.

#### TRIBUTE TO VANESSA BROWN

##### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the great accomplish-

ment of one of my constituents, Vanessa Brown of Co-Op City, the Bronx. I wish to recognize Ms. Brown for her outstanding achievement in being selected the district winner in the 26th Annual Congressional Art Competition for her inspiring and uplifting piece entitled "A New Starry Night."

Ms. Brown is currently a high school junior attending Lehman High School in the Bronx. She has demonstrated a commitment to pursuing her gift and to further developing her abilities, making her a deserving recipient of this honor. I am proud that this year my district is well-represented in this competition by Ms. Brown's work and I look forward to viewing it in these halls for the months to come.

Each year, Congress affords our Nation's most talented and budding artists the opportunity to have their work displayed in the Cannon Tunnel leading to the U.S. Capitol. This beautiful display is experienced daily by Members of Congress, their staff, our country's residents, and welcomed visitors from all around the world who are awarded the privilege of witnessing our young people's artistic endeavors and talents.

Madam Speaker, I salute the authentic, creative voice of Ms. Brown and I wish her continued success and all the very best in the future.

#### SUPPORT FUNDING FOR THE NA- TIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

##### HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. Grants funding from the NEA reaches people of all races, classes and geographic areas.

I have been personally involved with Childsplay in Arizona for many years and have seen first-hand the impact the arts can have on the community and good work the NEA performs. Through NEA grants, the arts are shared with those at all income levels and in all communities.

I remember specifically the impact one Childsplay production had on the children who attended. Eric and Elliott, a play that received \$23,000 in grant money from the NEA, dealt with teen depression and suicide. This play about hope shared the tools to recognize and cope with depression. It inspired young people to come forward to seek help.

Since its inception, Eric and Elliott has formed a unique partnership with the Mental Health Association of Arizona and a counselor now travels with the production to provide on-site counseling services to young people. The play earned the "Distinguished Play Award 2006" from the American Alliance for Theatre and Education.

This is just one example of many in which arts and arts education deeply impacts young people and adults.

Also, and importantly, where the Federal Government invests, the private sector and community follow. NEA funding from the Federal Government encourages the private sector and local communities to invest in arts organizations and signals that the arts are a worthy investment.

Millions of people have benefited greatly from NEA-funded programs over the last 40 years and I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting increased funding for this important organization.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 25, 2007, I was unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 549 and 550. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on these bills.

#### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL BILL GORDON

##### HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Retired Army Col. Bill Gordon of Fort Collins, Colorado.

Later today Colonel Gordon will receive the National Order of the Legion of Honor from the Government of France in recognition of his distinguished record of military service in France during World War II. The Legion of Honor is the highest honor conferred upon French citizens and foreign nationals by the French Government.

After playing on UCLA's first football team to compete in the Rose Bowl, Bill Gordon was commissioned through UCLA's Army ROTC Program in 1943. Following the 1944 D-Day invasion, Lieutenant Gordon was assigned as a replacement platoon leader in B Company of the 82nd Airborne Division's 507th Regiment.

In December 1944, the 507th was assigned to an area along the Meuse River just east of Nouzonville, France, to meet the onslaught of a German surprise attack in the Ardennes. After the Battle of the Bulge, Lieutenant Gordon was seriously injured during a parachute jump near the important German industrial City of Essen.

After the war Lieutenant Gordon was placed on reserve status in 1946, but was reappointed to the regular Army in 1949. Over the course of his 30-year career in the Army, Colonel Gordon served in both Korea and Vietnam. Among his many decorations are the Distinguished Service Medal, two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with V, two Purple Hearts, 14 Air Medals with V, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Following his distinguished military career, Colonel Gordon and his family settled in Fort Collins, Colorado, where he served as Director of the Larimer County Emergency Management System and as Larimer County Administrator.

The sacrifices he made to ensure the liberty and freedom of future generations will never be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, like so many other young members of this Greatest Generation, Colonel Gordon set aside his ambitions and risked his life to ensure the continued freedom of our great nation. I am both humbled by his selflessness and incredibly proud of his heroic patriotism. As he receives recognition today from

the Government of France, I urge my colleagues in this House to join me in extending our gratitude to Colonel Bill Gordon.

# RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DERRICK BROOKS

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the accomplishments of one of my constituents, Derrick Brooks of the National Football League's Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Derrick will be inducted to the City of Champions Wall of Fame exhibit at Pensacola Regional Airport. The Pensacola Sports Association will join Pensacola and Escambia County to honor the Pensacola native on Thursday evening at the Pensacola Civic Center.

At Booker T. Washington High School in Pensacola, Derrick excelled in both the classroom and on the field. By the end of his high school career he was named the USA Today High School Defensive Player of the Year, a Parade All-American, and was rated the best defensive player in the country by Super Prep magazine. Perhaps even more impressive for a football player of this stature, Derrick graduated with a 3.94 grade-point average.

Derrick was a 4-year letterman at Florida State University where he compiled 274 tackles, 5 interceptions, 8.5 sacks, 13 passes deflected, 4 forced fumbles, and 3 fumble recoveries. His senior honors included: First Team All-America by American Football Coaches, UPI and Walter Camp, GTE Academic All-America choice, First Team All-Atlantic Coast Conference, and Senior Bowl selection. Derrick was a finalist for the Vince Lombardi Award, symbolic of the Nation's top lineman/linebacker, for two straight years. As a junior, he was named First Team All-America by Football Writers' Association and Walter Camp, and he was a consensus First Team All-ACC choice and that conference's defensive player of the year. Derrick also earned Sophomore All-America honors from Football News and was a First Team All-ACC choice that year as well.

Derrick graduated from Florida State with a bachelor of arts degree in business communications and recently went back and earned his master's degree in the same subject.

Derrick is now the unquestioned leader of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and arguably the most respected player in the NFL. Long considered the NFL's best linebacker, he has been selected to a team-record nine total Pro Bowls. Derrick was honored as the NFL's Defensive Player of the Year in 2002 and the 2006 Pro Bowl's Most Valuable Player.

Following the 2002 season, Derrick was the instrumental team captain that led the Buccaneers to their first Super Bowl championship, and he is ranked as the franchise's most prolific tackler with 1,775 stops.

Derrick has always given back to his community and he is considered one of the most philanthropic players in the NFL. In 2000 he was the co-recipient of the Walter Payton/NFL Man of the Year Award, and in 2004, was the winner of the prestigious 38th annual Byron

"Whizzer" White Award for his dedication to serve his team, community, and country in the spirit of the late Supreme Court Justice. In March 2003 Derrick established his own foundation—Derrick Brooks Charities, Inc.—which focuses charitable endeavors on children and has done considerable work with March of Dimes, D.A.R.E., and the Belmont Heights, Ybor City, and Brandon Boys and Girls Clubs.

Derrick is constantly distinguishing himself with achievements that are unmatched by any other player in NFL history and the city of Pensacola is recognizing this great man by inducting him to the City of Champions Wall of Fame exhibit; an honor that is shared by only three other people: Don Sutton, Emmitt Smith, and Roy Jones Jr.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Derrick Brooks for his many outstanding accomplishments throughout his life, on and off the field, and wish him continued success throughout his career.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Friday, June 22, 2007, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

1. Rollcall No. 543: "yes" on ordering the previous question.
2. Rollcall No. 544: "yes" on agreeing to H. Res. 502.
3. Rollcall No. 545: "no" on agreeing to the Flake amendment to H.R. 2771.
4. Rollcall No. 546: "no" on agreeing to the Jordan amendment to H.R. 2771;
5. Rollcall No. 547: "no" on motion to recommit H.R. 2771 with instructions.
6. Rollcall No. 548: "yes" on passage of H.R. 2771.

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2007*

The House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2643) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. I rise today in strong support of the Conaway Amendment.

Supply and demand for energy is out of whack and our Nation needs more energy. Demand for natural gas is already building up across the economy, and proposals pushing cleaner energy will only accelerate this demand.

This amendment is a major opportunity for us to respond to today's energy crisis with a

national solution. I feel justified in supporting this amendment because I am from a coastal district. My constituents feel the same way as I do on this issue.

Chemical production and oil and gas exploration, processing, and refining are Texas's top coastal industries. My colleagues from Florida and California think only they have beaches, but coastal tourism is Texas's second largest coastal industry.

That fact alone shows the argument that oil and gas production and coastal tourism are mutually exclusive is just plain wrong. They are acting like Chicken Little, and cannot point to one beach in Texas that has been ruined by oil or natural gas production.

There will be less need for LNG facilities and LNG tankers when we tap our own offshore resources so we can use the safest mode of transportation in the world—pipelines.

My point is not that we can drill our way to cheap oil or drill our way to energy independence. If we allow domestic production to die out, conservation and research will not save us, and we will have to pay a terrible economic price.

I urge my colleagues to support oil and gas production and support the Conaway Amendment.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE "ENHANCED FINANCIAL RECOVERY AND EQUITABLE RETIREMENT TREATMENT ACT OF 2007"

**HON. ARTUR DAVIS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, as a former assistant United States attorney, I am pleased to introduce the "Enhanced Financial Recovery and Equitable Retirement Treatment Act of 2007." This bill will enhance the Federal Government's capacity to collect unpaid judgments and restitutionary obligations owed to the United States and victims of crime, as well as strengthen the retirement benefits of assistant United States attorneys.

Madam Speaker, as you are aware, United States Attorney Offices are responsible for criminal and civil debt collection efforts that result annually in billions of dollars that are turned over to Federal agencies and crime victims. Unfortunately, however, there remain billions of dollars that go uncollected due to the competing demands on our law enforcement officers. "The Enhanced Financial Recovery and Equitable Treatment Act of 2007" will address this problem by improving the process by which the Department of Justice collects criminal and civil debts owed to the United States and the victims of crime.

But Madam Speaker, that is not all. The "Enhanced Financial Recovery and Equitable Treatment Act of 2007," in addition to improving debt collection, will also significantly aid our law enforcement efforts in another important way: it will ensure that assistant United States attorneys receive the same retirement benefits as all other Federal law enforcement officials, thereby increasing the retention of our career Federal prosecutors. Indeed, despite their vital role in prosecuting criminals, despite their vital role in defending the United States in litigation, despite their vital role in